

City of Salem, Massachusetts



**"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and
City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."**

The City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with the Committee of the Whole
met in the Council Chamber on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

May 28, 2020 at 12:11 P.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: None, meeting was held electronically via ZOOM platform with all 5 committee members present (Committee members were Councilors Dibble, chair, Hapworth, Morsillo, Prosniewski, and Riccardi. No other City Councilors in attendance. Also present was Lt Rocheville from the Salem Police Community Impact Unit who was made a Co-Host for purposes of being allowed in the ZOOM platform to present a slide show. Mayor Driscoll and Police Chief, and others were present in the ZOOM audience.

SUBJECT(S)

#87 – Meet the Community Impact Unit (CIU) for a presentation. Meeting started at 6:01 after making Lt Rocheville, SPD a ZOOM platform panelist so he could make a slide show presentation. Chair Dibble introduced Lt Rocheville and asked him to begin his presentation to be followed by questions and discussion of the PHSE committee and questions will then be taken from the public. Lt Rocheville began with an explanation of what the CIU – Community Impact Unit of the Salem Police Dept - does and what officers are involved. He continued with details of the following: Working with Support Services, Mental Health, Homeless Outreach Specialist, peer support, CIU goes to every overdose with education, Nar can, Needle Exchange Program, Outreach Nurse working with homeless, and received DMH Jail Diversion grant past 6 years. Lt Rocheville provided examples from monthly Mental Health meetings. Lt Rocheville continued slideshow presentation with comments on High Risk Homeless Task Force meeting, section 35 Civil Involuntary Commitment to a treatment facility for alcohol or substance abuse, CIU at Life Bridge Shelter 2-3 times per day, Disorderly Housing ordinance has improved quality of life, participates in the Salem State University Neighborhood Advisory Committee, problem properties task force, and examples of hoarding cases. Lt Rocheville explained CIU has assigned different officers to 6 different large occupancy buildings (Princeton Crossing, Fairweather, etc), and continued with details of Community Policing through Environmental Design, and discussed "Hot Spots" examples.

Chair Dibble complimented Lt Rocheville and CIU for their work and mentioned he has worked with CIU on problem SSU properties and seen them in action at SSUNAC where they do a great job. C. Dibble asked how the City Council could help and LT Rocheville answered with we could send constituents to CIU. C. Dibble asked about problem properties needing to receive 3 complaints before being added to the list and Lt Rocheville confirmed this that residents should contact the Salem Police non emergency number with complaints but it does not always take 3 complaints and sometime a property will be categorized higher if deemed so by CIU. Councilor Prosniewski (who assisted in scheduling the presentation) gave examples from his experience as a past employee of SPD and suggested receiving monthly updates from CIU to the City Council. C. Morsillo stated her later meeting was cancelled so she was no longer pressed for time. Chair Dibble opened it up to the public for questions. Steve Kapantais discussed how CIU/Salem Police successfully assisted with a Wisteria Street neighborhood

problem. C. Morsillo asked how COVID has effected your job, C. Hapworth asked about stats on homeless & COVID, and C. Dibble asked for a copy of the slide show presentation so it could be made part of the record and be distributed to all City Councillors and asked where do we go from here? It discussed keeping lines of communication open and that monthly meetings are held 3rd Thursday of each month 10-11, and 11-12. It was agreed and voted 5-0 to recommend to the Council President that he appoint a Council liaison to the CIU and report favorably to the Council that the CIU be requested to provide monthly updates to the City Council. SPD-CIU slide show presentation attached and made part of this record. PHSE committee then continued with 2nd matter as follows:

#171 – Meet with the Health Agent to discuss the COVID-19 Virus - Chair Dibble acknowledged that Health Agent Dave Greenbaum was invited but was not present but that SPD Chief Butler and the Mayor and others were in the audience. With no comments or questions from committee members, Chair Dibble stated he had written to the mayor 3 times without an answer and that at least one other Councillor also had written to the mayor requesting that she work with organizers of the 2-3 Salem protest rallies scheduled for this coming weekend to postpone them if possible to a later date for a bigger event, like Peabody had just done by their mayor reaching out to their organizers, and a larger Salem protest rally could take place when the COVID emergency is lessened and due to the lawlessness seen in other cities, and that people were still dying of COVID including recently 1 more here in Salem for about 28 Salem deaths. C. Prosniewski stated we could not stop the protest, C. Riccardi said COVID is important but wants to be sure people can speak up, C. Morsillo echoed comments of C. Riccardi. C. Dibble said he did not want to tell protesters they could not protest, only to ask Mayor Driscoll to see if she could do what the Mayor of Peabody successfully did in contact their protest organizers to have the Peabody protest later when COVID and lawlessness have reduced. C. Dibble recognized Mayor Driscoll who signaled with a zoom hand and spoke of rally in Peabody was reorganized by a different person and was going forward and that she would not tell Salem protesters not to protest. C. Dibble suggested he was not suggesting “telling” the protesters anything only work with them to ask that a bigger event be held later when lawlessness and more importantly COVID is lessened. C. Dibble stated he had reached out to the mayor 3 times with no reply from the mayor. The mayor said she thought her assistant Dominick had reached out and that she would call me to discuss after this meeting. C. Dibble thanked the mayor, after further back and forth discussion between the Mayor and C. Dibble, c. Dibble stated he and the mayor should agree to disagree, and he welcomed the phone call from the mayor to respond to his concerns. C. Dibble recognized Steve Kapantais from the public who also raised his zoom hand where he offered that Saturday’s Salem protest was cancelled and that organizer asked all to attend Friday night’s protest. C. Dibble mentioned that as of this morning over 500 people indicated they were either going to the Friday protest or were interested, but was not sure as to the latest attendance count. Additional protest comments were made by C Riccardi, Prosnieski, and Hapworth. No action taken.

On the motion of C. Hapworth seconded by C. Prosnieski the meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Councillor Stephen Dibble

(Chairperson)